

ST FURSEY'S ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY AND PARISH,
ST. FURSEY'S ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN PARISH CHURCH.
YARMOUTH ROAD, STALHAM. NR12 9PG.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMME

DECEMBER 2020



The Nativity of Christ (December 25th)

Troparion

THY Nativity, O Christ our God, hath revealed to the world the Light of wisdom: for in it those who worshipped the stars were taught by a star to adore thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know thee, the Dayspring from on high. Glory be to thee. O Lord.

BRITISH ORTHODOX SAINTS
COMMEMORATED IN
DECEMBER.

- 03 Birinus, Apostle of Wessex
Lucius, King in Britain*
Sola, Hermit*)
- 07 Diuna, Bishop and Missionary
- 08 Budoc, Celtic Missionary
Gunthild of Wimborne, Virgin
- 09 Ethelgiva, Abbess of Shaftesbury
Wolfeius, Hermit
- 12 Agatha of Wimborne, Virgin
- 13 Edburgh of Lyminge, Virgin
Edburgh, Abbess of Minster-in-Thanet
- 14 Hibald, Abbot
- 15 Offa, King of Essex, Monk
- 18 Winebald, Abbot and Missionary
- 23 Friðeþert, Bishop of Hexham
- 25 Alburgh of Wilton, Nun
- 30 Egwin, Bishop of Worcester

Troparion of St. Fursey

Establishing thy monastery in a Roman Fortress
Thou didst teach men that the Orthodox faith is
A true bastion against the onslaughts of every
Evil force O Father Fursey
Wherefore pray to God for us that we may all be
Bastions of the faith standing firm against the
Rising tide of falsehood, that our souls may be saved



Sat Dec 5th	Vespers 4pm.
Sun Dec 6th	26 th Sunday after Pentecost (St Nicholas the Wonderworker) Liturgy 10am.
Tues Dec 8th	Conception of the Most Holy Theotokos by the Righteous Ann Vesperal Liturgy 7pm.
Sat Dec 12th	St Spyridon the Wonderworker 348. Vespers 4pm
Sun Dec 13th	27 th Sunday after Pentecost (Sunday of the Holy Forefathers) Divine Liturgy 10am.
Sat Dec 19th	Saturday before the Nativity of Christ. Vespers 4pm.
Sun Dec 20th	28 th Sunday after Pentecost The Righteous who pleased God from Adam to St Joseph the Betrothed (Also St Ignatius of Antioch BM) Divine Liturgy 10am.
Thurs Dec 24th	EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST – ROYAL HOURS AT ST FURSEY'S CHAPEL 3rd Hour 9am + 6 Hour 12 Noon. 9th Hour 6pm (Parish Church) VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY OF THE NATIVITY
Christmas Day 25th Dec	NO SERVICES CHRISTMAS DAY
Sat Dec 26th	Vespers 4pm

Sun Dec 27th

29th Sunday after Pentecost –
Commemoration of St Joseph + St James,
The Lord's Brother.

Liturgy of St James 10am.

CHRIST IS BORN – GLORIFY HIM

Daily Services in St Fursey's Chapel (Neville Road)

In addition to the services at the Parish Church, there will be our normal daily services in St Fursey's Chapel. These are usually 3rd hour 9am, plus reading from the Fathers. **Vespers 4pm.**

In spite of all our problems with the COVID-19 restrictions, the worship of God goes on. Visitors are welcome but social distancing and masks apply. Hopefully, the current restrictions will be eased in December.

COMMUNITY NEWS & NOTICES

NORWICH MARKET STALL

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions in Norwich and the demolition of the Charity Stall, we have not had any presence in Norwich this year and we have also lost £1000. We will concentrate on STALHAM next year.

STALHAM TOWNHALL TUESDAY MARKET

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions the Tuesday Market in the town hall has not functioned but hopefully, we will be there again next year. Also, we hope to have our Icon and Book stall functioning outside the Parish Church on some days (to be decided) as the church is very close to the school (Academy) and things are very busy when the children are brought to school and in, the afternoon when school closes.

BUILDING OUR PARISH CHURCH IN STALHAM

Needless to say, things are on hold at the moment due to the COVID-19 restrictions and the lack of money. God willing, we will be able to resume in February next year. It would be lovely to have the new church ready for our 23rd Anniversary in October. We shall have to wait and see and PRAY!

God bless you all

Father Stephen

NB: THIS NEWSLETTER CONTAINS TWO LETTERS FROM METROPOLITAN SILOUAN (PLEASE READ THEM)

Subject: Your Opinion matter, But!!!! 11.11.20

The Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers of our God-protected Archdiocese,

Grace, peace and mercy be unto you all!

I hope and trust you are all well as, for those of us in England, we are now reaching the end of the first week of our second national lockdown. May the Lord grant us all to use this period for repentance and the purification of souls that we may serve the people of God and our whole country with diligence and humility.

Our Archdiocese has taken the decision to support this second lockdown. While **we may disagree with the regulations on a personal level**, believing they are either too much or too little, **in our public words—especially those published online in text, audio or video format—we should be positive towards them:** this is because they are for the health of all in our society, the alleviation of suffering and the prevention of the spread of this disease.

We must be careful when we speak with our own opinion. Any opinion of the Archdiocese, or opinion of the parish to which you are assigned, **must come either from me or with my specific blessing.** At all times a clergyman speaks his own opinion he should make sure all those listening understand this by including the phrase "In my own opinion, ..." or something similar.

Please, dear Fathers, be careful in what you say online for the sake of our Church that she may be kept pure, holy and not open to abuse by those who would use her for political ends.

I ask your prayers before the Lord for me. Please pray, too, for each other.

I remain your father in Christ,

+Silouan

**Antiochian Orthodox
Christian Archdiocese
of the British Isles and
Ireland**



الأبرشية الإنطاكية
المسيحية الأرثوذكسية
للجزر البريطانية و إيرلندا

Registered Charity Number:1175538

Archbishop: His Eminence, Metropolitan Silouan Oner

London 10/11/20

The Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers of our God-protected Archdiocese,

Grace and peace be to you all!

Thank you for your response to my email of Friday, 23rd October, about deans in the Archdiocese. I think all of you could be a dean because you have a clean and loving heart, but we have to mention the names who will work as deans.

As Metropolitan of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of the British Isles and Ireland, I have decided:

1. To appoint the **Reverend Father Michael Alexander** to be **Dean of the East** of the Archdiocese (York, Doncaster, Grimsby, Louth, Lincoln, Stalham).
2. To appoint the **Very Reverend Archpriest Gregory Hallam** to be **Dean of the West** of the Archdiocese (Lancaster, Belfast, Dublin, Tralee, Manchester, Worcester, Dresden, Audley).
3. To appoint the **Reverend Father Chrysostom MacDonnell** to be **Dean of the South** of the Archdiocese (Poole, Athelhampton, Yeovil, Eastleigh, London St Botolph, Basildon, Colchester).
4. The deans will start their tasks on 01/01/2021 and will end on 31/12/2021.
5. The idea is new, so we will see the result after one year and then we will decide if we will continue it or not.
6. We will look to establish a new Deanery for Ireland at an appropriate time.

To be known in all our Archdiocese from this date.

Your prayers!

I remain your father in Christ

+Silouan

**+ Silouan, Metropolitan of the British Isles and
Ireland**

+Silouan

Patriarchate of Antioch and all the East

THE NATIVITY ACCORDING TO THE FLESH OF OUR LORD AND GOD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST

Vespers

On Lord, I have cried, *eight stichera are sung*:

TONE TWO

(by Germanos)

Come, let us greatly rejoice in the Lord as we tell of this present mystery. The middle wall of partition has been destroyed; the flaming sword turns back, the cherubim withdraw from the tree of life, and I partake of the delight of Paradise from which I was cast out through disobedience. For the express Image of the Father,¹ the Imprint of His eternity, takes the form of a servant, and without undergoing change He comes forth from a Mother who knew not wedlock. For what He was, He has remained, true God: and what He was not, He has taken upon Himself, becoming man through love for mankind. Unto Him let us cry aloud: God born of a Virgin, have mercy upon us (*twice*).

(by Anatolios)

When the Lord Jesus was born of the holy Virgin, all the world was enlightened. The shepherds watched in the fields, the Magi adored and the angels praised in song; but Herod was troubled: for God has appeared in the flesh, the Saviour of our souls (*twice*).

Thy Kingdom, O Christ our God, is a Kingdom of all the ages, and Thy rule is from generation to generation. Made flesh of the Holy Spirit and made man of the ever-Virgin Mary, Thou hast enlightened us by Thy coming. Light of Light, Brightness of the Father,¹ Thou hast made the whole creation shine with joy. All that hath breath praises Thee, the Image of the glory of the Father. O God who art, and who hast ever been, who hast shone forth from a Virgin, have mercy upon us (*twice*).

BUDOC (Buoc, Beuzec) (6th century). Celtic saint, patron of Budock and Budoc Vean (Cornwall) and St. Budeaux (Devon). Budoc was honoured also in Pembrokeshire (Dyfed) in and near Steynton; to him was dedicated a Tironian monastery at Pill in 1200. An Oxford church (near the castle) was also dedicated to Budoc; it may well have been of pre-Conquest date.

Budoc is also venerated in Brittany. The 9th-century Life of *Winwaloe describes him as a teacher living in the island of Laureá. The Life of *Maglorius, written c.900, and the 11th-century Chronicle of Dol, make him Maglorius' successor as bishop of Dol. He is the local saint of Plourin, where his relics are still preserved. There is a cult and no place-names at Dol, but place-names without a cult in Cornouaille. Whether this Breton bishop is the same as the abbot venerated in Pembrokeshire, and Cornwall it is impossible to determine. The date of the Breton feast (9 December) is sufficiently close to the Exeter martyrology entry, to favour an identification; it is a curious fact also that Budock faces St. Mawes across Falmouth harbour, while *Mawes was abbot of an island monastery in Brittany close to that of Budoc. The main centres of the cult(s) of Budoc are all close to the sea.

The most picturesque legend of Budoc concerns his birth at sea in a barrel. His mother Azenor had been falsely accused of infidelity to her husband by her jealous stepmother who had her thrown pregnant into the English Channel in a barrel. Fortified by visions of *Brigid she reached Ireland and became the washer-woman of the monastery of Beau Port, near Waterford, where her son was brought up. This story is derived from Greek mythology; with other late accretions it has done nothing to help unravel the tangled skeins of this saint's life and cult. Feast: 8 December; Glastonbury claimed to possess a relic.

ALBURGA (d. c.810), foundress of Wilton nunnery. Half-sister of Egbert, king of Wessex and widow of Wolstan, called Earl of Wiltshire. Alburga is said to have changed her husband's foundation of canons at Wilton into a nunnery, which she entered and where she died. Feast: 25 December.

W. Dugdale, *Monasticon*, ii. 315; Stanton, pp. 607-8.

OFFA OF ESSEX (d. c.709), king. Son of Sighele, King of the East Saxons, and of *Osith, Offa became king c.707, and was, according to *Bede, a lovable, handsome, and popular prince. But in 709 he left 'his wife, his lands, his kinsmen and his fatherland for Christ', abdicated, went to Rome where he was tonsured, and died a monk soon afterwards. His betrothal to Cyneswith, daughter of Penda of Mercia, claimed by Florence of Worcester and William of Malmesbury, is chronologically impossible. It must also be remembered that at this period the abdication and tonsuring of kings was sometimes the result of palace revolutions both in Gaul and in Britain. No record of an official cult of Offa has survived; Stanton assigns his feast to 15 December.

Bede, *H.E.*, v. 19; *G.R.*, i. 99; *G.P.*, p. 317; Florence of Worcester, i. 46-7; Stanton, pp. 600-1.

DIUMA (Dimma) (d. 658), bishop of the Middle Angles and Mercians. Of Irish origin, Diuma was one of the four priests sent by *Finan, bishop of Lindisfarne, to evangelize Mercia after the baptism of Peada, son of Penda c.652. The others were *Cedd, Betti, and Adda, of whom nothing is known. Their apostolate in Mercia, according to *Bede, was most successful. When Penda died in 654, the Christian King Oswiu of Northumbria ruled Mercia for a few years; during this time Diuma was consecrated bishop by Finan over the peoples of the Mercians and Middle Angles. It seems that he worked mainly among the latter and died in a district called *Infeppingum*. The 11th-century Anglo-Saxon saints' list (*R.P.S.*) says that he lies buried at Charlbury (Oxon.); the form of his name led to a belief that Dimma (Diuma) was a woman. Feast 7 December.

Bede, *H.E.*, ii. 21; *R.P.S.*

FRITHEBERT, bishop of Hexham 734-66. The successor of *Acca, he is also mentioned as the administrator of Lindisfarne while its bishop, Cynewulf, was in prison. No other details are known of his life. His bones were discovered at Hexham in 1154. Feast: 23 December.

J. Raine, *Memorials of Hexham Abbey*, i (*S.S.*, 1864), pp. 199-200; *D.C.B.*, ii. 566.